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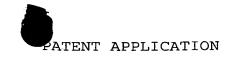
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## A BREAKAWAY SUPPORT POST FOR HIGHWAY GUARDRAIL END TREATMENTS

SAL TO ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A breakaway support post is  $pr\phi$ vided for a highway guardrail system to enhance the safety of a vehicle impacting with either the rail face of the associated quardrail or one end of the quardrail facing oncoming traffic. For some applications,/the breakaway support post may be formed from a stee/ I-beam with one or more elongated slots formed intermediate the ends of the steel The slots are preferably formed in the flanges of the I-beam which are in/turn aligned generally parallel with the associated quardrail. For other applications, a breakaway support post may have an upper and a lower portion with a rotatable coupling assembly disposed therebetween / A shear pin or other releasing mechanism is preferably provided to maintain the upper and lower portions denerally aligned with each other prior to the impact of a vehicle with one end of the associated guardrail. The coupling assembly is preferably oriented relative to the quardrail such that the breakaway support post will provide sufficient support during/a rail face impact to direct the impacting vehicle back  $\phi$ nto the associated roadway. For still other applications, a breakaway support post may have an upper and a/lower portion with a frangible connection disposed therebetween. The frangible connection is will provide sufficient support during a rail face impact and release the upper portion from the lower position when a vehicle impacts one end of the associated quardrail.

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